AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 18-21, 33-37 and 39-40 are pending in the instant application. Claims 18-19, 33, 36 and 39-40 have been amended. The Applicant requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following amendments reflected in the listing of claims.

Listing of claims:

1-17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Currently Amended) A network communication system, comprising:

a single integrated convergent network controller (ICNC) chip; and

a single Ethernet connector for handling a plurality of layer 2/ layer 4/ layer 5 (L2/L4/L5) types of network traffic transported via a single fabric, wherein:

the single Ethernet connector is coupled to the single ~~integrated convergent network controller~~ICNC chip;

the single fabric is a physical link coupled to a plurality of servers;

the single ~~integrated convergent network controller~~ICNC chip comprises an L2/L4/L5 adapter operable to process the plurality of L2/L4/L5 types of network traffic for the plurality of servers, wherein the plurality of L2/L4/L5 types of network traffic ~~comprises~~comprise: network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic and cluster traffic, which are transported via the single fabric, wherein the network traffic comprises Internet or Ethernet traffic, and wherein the storage traffic comprises traffic from storage devices accessible via a network.

19. (Currently Amended) The network communication system according to claim 18, wherein:

the plurality of servers comprises a blade server, and

the single ~~integrated convergent network controller~~ICNC chip is part of a blade mounted in the blade server.

20.   (Previously Presented) The network communication system according to claim 19, wherein the blade server has a single Internet protocol (IP) address.

21.   (Previously Presented) The network communication system according to claim 18, wherein the plurality of servers is part of a data center, and the data center comprises a plurality of other servers coupled to each other via the single fabric.

22-25. (Canceled)

26-32. (Withdrawn)

33.   (Currently Amended)   A method for communication, the method comprising:

in a data center:

accessing a storage system over a single fabric, wherein said single fabric is a physical link comprises a single layer 2 (L2) connector coupled to a single integrated convergent network controller (ICNC) chip, wherein:

the ICNC chip comprises an L2/L4/L5 adapter operable to process a plurality of layer 2/ layer 4/ layer 5 (L2/L4/L5) types of traffic, wherein the plurality of L2/L4/L5 types of network traffic ~~comprises~~comprise: network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic and cluster traffic; and

accessing one or more of a cluster and a network over said single fabric, wherein the network traffic comprises Internet or Ethernet traffic, and wherein the storage traffic comprises traffic from storage devices accessible via a network.

34.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 33, wherein said accessing of said storage system, over said single fabric are performed over a single Ethernet connector of a server in the data center.

35.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 33, wherein said single integrated convergent network controller chip coupled to the single Ethernet connector has a single Internet protocol (IP) address.

36.   (Currently Amended)   A   system   for   communication,   the   system comprising:

a single integrated convergent network controller (ICNC) chip, said ICNC chip comprises an L2/L4/L5 adapter that enables processing functionalities of a plurality of layer 2/ layer 4/ layer 5 (L2/L4/L5) types of traffic that are received via a single layer 2 (L2) connector that is communicatively coupled to a plurality of servers via a single physical link fabric, wherein the plurality of L2/L4/L5 types of network traffic ~~comprises~~comprise: network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic and cluster traffic, wherein the network traffic comprises Internet or Ethernet traffic, and wherein the storage traffic comprises traffic from storage devices accessible via a network.

37.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 36, wherein said single integrated convergent network controller chip comprises a layer 2 network interface

card (L2 NIC), a transmission control protocol (TCP) processor, an iSCSI processor, a remote direct memory access (RDMA) processor and a Management Agent processor.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) A method for communication, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of layer 2/ layer 4/ layer 5 (L2/L4/L5) types of traffic at a single layer 2 (L2) connector that is communicatively coupled to a plurality of servers via a single physical link fabric; and

processing the plurality of L2/L4/L5 types of traffic for the plurality of servers via a single integrated convergent network controller (ICNC) chip, said ICNC chip comprises an L2/L4/L5 adapter that enables processing functionalities of [[a]] the plurality of,

wherein the plurality of L2/L4/L5 types of network traffic comprisescomprise: network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic and cluster traffic, wherein the network traffic comprises Internet or Ethernet traffic, and wherein the storage traffic comprises traffic from storage devices accessible via a network.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein said single integrated convergent network controllerICNC chip comprises a layer 2 network interface card (L2 NIC), a transmission control protocol (TCP) processor, an iSCSI processor, a remote direct memory access (RDMA) processor and a Management Agent processor.

41. (Canceled)

42-49. (Withdrawn)